

# Cows Dwell in Grandeur on Ideal Farm Conducted Expressly for Their Benefit



## Just Outside of Washington 133 Thoroughbred Jerseys Eat Meal Good Enough for Society Women.

To the man traveling through Montgomery county, in Maryland, the 400 acres comprised in the farm owned and operated by Ford & Graham appear merely as more beautiful and well kept than the other farms in the State, but to him who takes the trouble to drive up to the small village of buildings on the crest of the hill and to inspect what is done there it appears that he is face to face with a practical example of "how to make the best milk in the best way."

A representative of The Times happened to be in the neighborhood of the farm yesterday and, attracted by its beauty, drove up to the building. There he found James M. Ford, one of the members of the firm of Ford & Graham. Mr. Ford very kindly showed him over the farm, explaining its features and the manner in which the work is done in regard to handling the milk and milk products.

To the Washingtonian, this farm is of particular interest, for it supplies with milk, cream, and butter the famous lunch room run by Ford & Graham, at 600 Fifteenth street northwest.

### Where the Cows Graze.

On the rolling pastures of this Hermitage Dairy Farm 133 Jersey cows graze. On the crest of the hill there is a stable 265 feet long with an "L" 165 feet in length, while the width of the stable is thirty-two feet. It is a two-story structure, with a slate roof, cement floor, running water and a sewerage system.

Nearby is a circular stable where thirty-five horses and colts are housed. Further on are four tenement houses, where reside the twelve men who work on the farm. Most of these men have their families with them.

Crowning the view is the handsome residence occupied by Thomas Graham, one of the members of the firm of Ford & Graham.

These things are but the outward indications of the perfect system that is in effect on the farm for the proper production of dairy supplies. If any one doubts it, he has but to inspect the dairy, where the milk is kept and where a churn, run by steam, makes the butter that goes on the countless sandwiches eaten in Ford & Graham's lunch-rooms daily.

### Self-Perpetuating Farm.

The system is so conducted that the farm is a self-supporting and self-perpetuating institution. Ford & Graham, who have owned the property since August, 1900, have learned that the best way to have good, healthy milk cows is to raise them on the farm. This is done, and every year the daughters of the older cows take their places in the stalls and on the pastures, as parts of the herd that supply the milk.

These cows are treated like human beings. In the winter they do not have to leave their stalls and walk through snow and sleet to get water. Their water is given to them in their stalls. The cornmeal they eat is of such an excellent sort that my lady of fashion could gladly eat the snowy corn muffins that might be made out of it.

On the farm this cornmeal is ground from corn raised on parts of the famous 400 acres. A steam engine does the grinding.

The milking time is one of interest. The cows are milked between the hours of 4 and 7 a. m., and 3:30 and 6:30 p. m.

In the morning, this task is performed on record time, for the morning's milk has to be carried into Washington, eleven and four-tenths miles from the farm. As soon as the milk has been collected, it is cooled. Then it is put into cans and handled so that it will remain cool. Next, it is loaded on the cars of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway, and whizzed into Washington. At the station here wagons are drawn up awaiting the milk, which is carried to the refrigerators at the Palace Lunch Rooms, 600 Fifteenth street.

### 130 Gallons a Day.

From these cows at the farm, 130 gallons of milk are taken every day. This statement is enough to show that the twelve men who look after the milking cannot loaf on their jobs.

In every detail the highest state of perfection is attained in order to make the milk the best possible. The sanitation of the stables and the farms, the feed of the cows, and the arrangement and operation of the dairy convince the visitor that he has before him the ideal of dairy farming.

The dairy is a building sixty feet long, and twenty feet wide, and is cemented throughout, this being the best form of construction for sanitary purposes.

All these things are the details, the little things that, fitted into each other, make up a beautiful mosaic of perfection in dairy-farming. But there is another aspect of the situation. From the highest hill, the view sweeps across the meadows and rolling pastures of the farm. Across the width or length of every field there flows a stream fed by pure spring water.

### Perfect Pasturage.

Along the banks of the streams grow towering trees, in whose shade the cows lie and chew their cud. The pasturage is in the most perfect condition everywhere on the farm.

In these days, when the public clamors for pure milk, sanitary dairy farms and pure water for the milk cows, those who fear all milk is impure should visit the Hermitage Dairy farm. It is calculated to remove fears of this sort.

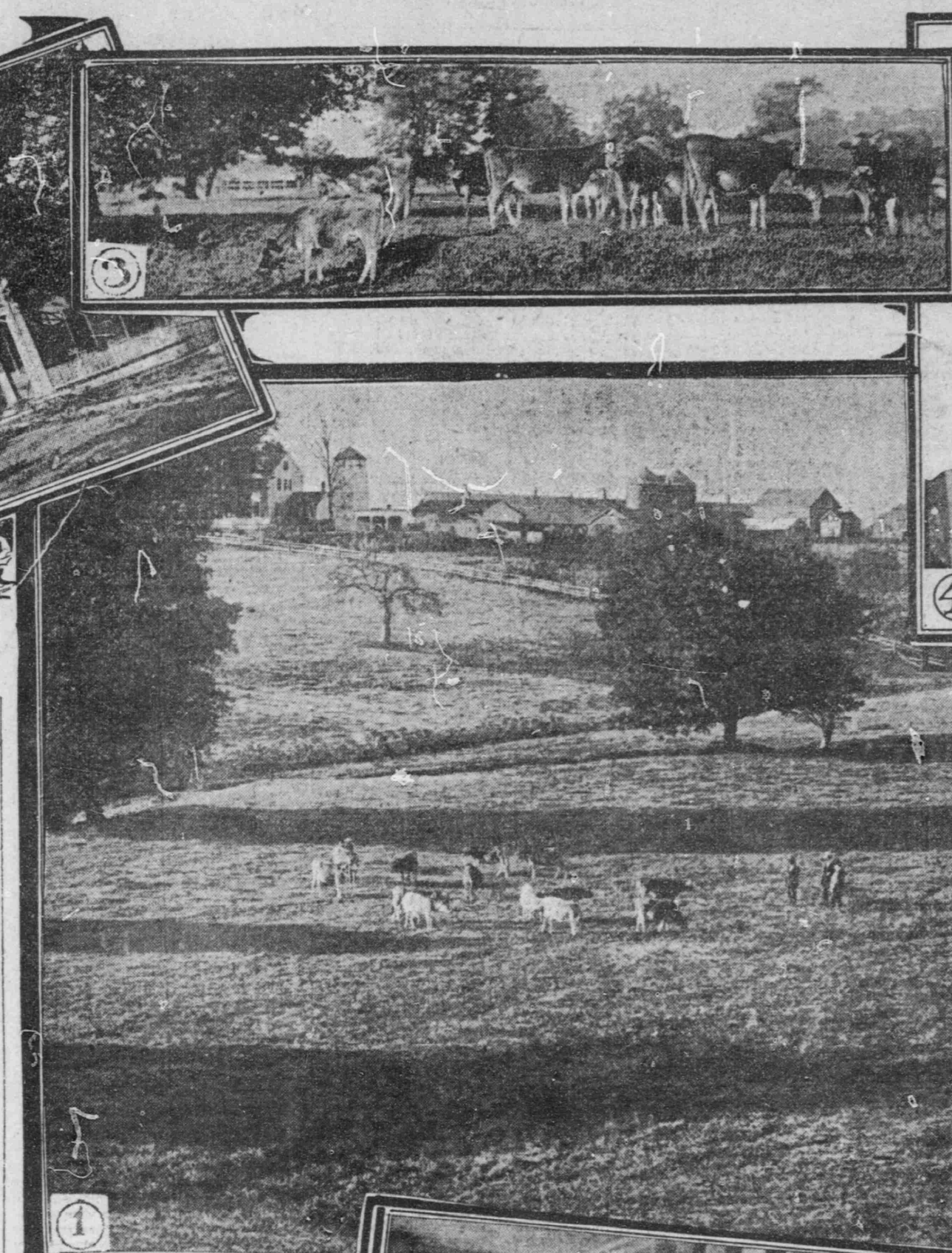
Ford & Graham established their lunch room on its present site in 1898. From the very start, it was a success. As the years went by, they realized the necessity, or rather the advantage, of having a farm of their own so that they might know the nature of the dairy products they dispensed to their lunch room.

A long time was spent in looking for the sort of farm they needed. Finally, they found the one that suited them. It belonged to Col. William L. Thompson, a paymaster in the United States Navy. Negotiations were entered into, and the result was that Ford & Graham became owners of the Hermitage Dairy Farm.

### Farm's Ice Ponds.

From it they get all the milk, cream, buttermilk, and butter they use in their lunchroom. So perfect is the arrangement at the farm that the milk is cooled there and kept cool in Washington by the ice that is collected from the ponds on the farm in winter. Nothing is lacking in the general scheme to make the production and care of the dairy products good.

Near the stables at the farm are two immense piles of ensilage more than fifty feet high, and a sight of these goes a long way toward making the



### Key to Pictures

1. Cows Grazing in Field.
2. Mr. Graham's Residence.
3. On the Banks of the Stream.
4. One of the Pet Bulls.
5. The Model Stable.
6. At Milking Time.

visitor realize why the cows give so much milk. Another great thing in the feeding of the cows is the fact that the feed is put into the troughs by automatic devices. Every day the cows are curried, so that their coats are as sleek as satin. Nothing that could possibly be conducive to their comfort is left undone.

Two turret-like towers, technically known as silos, contain the ensilage, which is nothing more than preserved corn. When the corn is cut it is brought to the cutter, and the stalk and ears are ground up together. A carrier transports the pulverized grain to a blower, which blows the ensilage up a tube into the silos, where about a dozen men tramp around to pack it. In this manner the corn is preserved and kept fresh all winter. This precludes the possibility of the cows contracting any of the diseases which result from dry feeding, and have a deleterious effect on the milk.

### Four Jersey Bulls.

Mr. Ford takes pride in the four Jersey bulls he has on the place. They are so gentle they will eat out of his hand, and each of them is a superb creature. One of the bulls is a son of Champion Flying Fox, and this one is an especial pet of all the employees on the farm.

It is a pleasant feature of the life at the farm that the cows all have names and seem to know them. They are petted by the men who look after them.

Corresponding to the excellent condition in which the cows, bulls, and horses are kept is the condition of every field of the farm. Bushes and weeds are conspicuous by their absence, because it is a rule of Ford & Graham that these useless and disfiguring growths shall be attacked and done away with as soon as possible. It is for this reason that the streams whose silvery lengths unwind themselves through the fields are not choked up by growths of briars and bushes on their banks. And the general result is that the farm is clean looking throughout.

The method by which the streams are kept free from weeds and undergrowth is by the "briar process," a device which is used extensively in Western farming



sections, but which was introduced in Montgomery county by Mr. Ford.

### War on Weeds.

In the fall the weeds are cut, put and in the spring the seeds of the briar are sown. The plant spreads so rapidly that after a few years of this treatment no room is left for weeds. The briar itself is a thin and wiry growth that has no

follage that might decay and harbor germs.

The stables in which the horses are kept, while not directly connected with the dairy business, constitutes one of the most interesting features of the farm. The stalls are built around an open court shaped like a horse shoe. In this court the horses are exercised in winter. The opposite end of each stall

from that which opens on the court is equipped with a fire-escape door with an automatic device by which it can be opened from the outside and the horses occupying the entire number of stalls, fifty in all, can be released in less than three minutes.

### Use of Crops.

The whole farm is devoted either directly or indirectly to the dairy busi-

ness. All the crops are utilized in feeding the cattle, and the horses are used in cultivating the land and in carrying the daily milk supply to the station.

Of course, not all of the 133 Jerseys are giving milk all the time. Some of this number are merely helpers. But, as they mature, they do their part in the milk production.

"This milk tastes like the best," observed The Times' representative, as he quaffed a glass of it before leaving the farm.

"It is the best," said Mr. Ford, with pride. "If you don't believe it, get a list of the many doctors who get their lunches at our lunch rooms in the city."

### A Scientific Process.

Dairy farming has come to be a science. There was a time when cows could be housed in the most miserable stables and given food and drink calculated to spread disease.

But these days have passed. Now the science is an exact thing in every particular if dairy farming is done according to law. From the time a calf is born it is watched over with jealous care. The cow's food and drink are guarded, and her stables are kept scrupulously clean and sanitary.

Such things are required by the laws of the District of Columbia, and by the laws of almost all the States of the Union. Of course, there are dairies which do not fulfill the law to the smallest detail. But Ford & Graham are people who go the law "one better." They do more than the law requires. The food they give their cattle is finer than the law requires. The beauty of their farm and its operation are far beyond what mere compliance with the law could ever accomplish.

### Firm's Improvements.

Their modes of constructing their buildings, their automatic feeding devices, and many other details of their system are embellishments that they have willingly added to their farm and its workings.

Washington, like other cities, has had several periods in recent years in which it became afraid of its milk supply. It is a notable fact that these fears have never touched the reputation of the farm owned and operated by Ford & Graham.

An agreeable feature of the farm is that nothing there impresses the visitor as being cheap or a makeshift. Everywhere there is the air of solidity and lasting strength. One glance at the residence of Mr. Graham lays the foundation for this impression. The tall, colonial pillars, supporting the double verandas, and the big windows, indicating large, airy rooms, are pleasant to the sight of the tourist.

### Good Management.

In the stables, where the sleek-coated Jerseys are milked, there is the same air of permanent excellence. The long stretch of cement floors, the perfectly operated automatic devices, both for feeding and watering, and the modern method of keeping the stables clean and fresh-looking, are things that speak well for the business ability and the gift for management possessed by the men in charge of the farm.

It is a rare thing for a sick cow to be heard of on this farm. There is no reason for the cows to be sick. Their food, their shelter, and their treatment are such as to keep them in the best of condition. Much has been written of the "kind-faced cow," but on the Ford & Graham farm living examples of it are found. They look as if they realized the excellent care taken of them and their children.

There is never any stampeding of herds, just as there is never any hurry about the driving of the cows from the pasture to the stables during the grazing season. Everything is done with care and in order.

### SIMPLE WHEN YOU KNOW.

The secret of real beauty is as plain as day. You've merely to accomplish this: Be born that way.

—Philadelphia Press.